

Message Text

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47/54

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NSC-07 SS-20 /057 W

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R 181817Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0035

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 14788

PASS WHITE HOUSE AND DIRECTOR BICENTENNIAL AGENCY

E.O. 11652

SUBJ: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL

1. FRENCH GOVERNMENT TWO YEARS AGO FORMED FRENCH COMMISSION TO ARRANGE PARTICIPATION U.S. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. PRESIDENT IS HERVE ALPHAND, RETIRED AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE, AND COMMISSION HAS SEVERAL DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITIES.
2. COMMISSION MADE EARLY DECISION GIFT OF SOUND AND LIGHT SPECTACLE TO MOUNT VERNON AND CLEARED WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES. ALTHOUGH ALPHAND INSISTS DECISION IS FIRM, NO RPT NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT YET MADE BY FRENCH.
3. EARLY FRENCH ENTHUSIASM FOR PARTICIPATION SEEMS TO HAVE DWINDLED SOMEWHAT. ALPHAND EXPLAINS THIS DUE LACK OF DECISION-MAKING BODY ON AMERICAN SIDE WHICH HAS HOPEFULLY BEEN CORRECTED BY CREATION OF BICENTENNIAL AGENCY AND APPOINTMENT DIRECTOR WARNER.
4. SEVERAL OTHER POSSIBLE PROJECTS INCLUDING PROPOSAL FRENCH NATIONAL FUND-RAISING DRIVE FOR AMERICAN HOSPITAL PARIS HAVE BEEN RAISED BUT AWAIT NEW INITIATIVE AND ACTION.

5. ALPHAND HAS SUGGESTED AND REPEATED INSISTENTLY
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ONLY WAY REGALVANIZE FRENCH INTEREST WOULD BE LETTER

FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO PRESIDENT OF FRANCE. REPEATED
ONCE MORE ONLY LAST WEEK TO CAO.

6. I BELIEVE SUCH A LETTER WOULD BE DESIRABLE MEANS
OF INTENSIFYING INTEREST FRENCH PARTICIPATION
BICENTENNIAL. FRENCH ROLE U.S. REVOLUTION SUGGESTS
FRENCH ROLE CELEBRATION SHOULD BE MOST PROMINENT OF
FOREIGN COUNTRIES TAKING PART. GIFT OF STATUE OF
LIBERTY FOR CENTENNIAL PAID BY POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION
INDICATIVE WHAT RELATION SHOULD BE TO BICENTENNIAL.

7. FOLLOWING IS A SUGGESTED DRAFT OF THE KIND OF
LETTER WE BELIEVE WOULD HAVE DESIRED EFFECT HERE:

PRESIDENT NIXON TO PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING.

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THE NEWS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PRELIMINARY
PREPARATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR BICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION HAS BEEN VERY WELCOME. THE RELATIONS
BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS AND OUR TWO PEOPLES ARE
HISTORICALLY UNIQUE, AND THE ROLE OF FRANCE IN THIS
OBSERVANCE SHOULD FITTINGLY ALSO BE A SPECIAL ONE.

THE BICENTENNIAL OFFERS AN OCCASION TO RENEW AND
REFRESH THESE HISTORICAL TIES AND TO REASSERT THE
ENLIGHTENED PRINCIPLES ON WHICH BOTH OUR SOCIETIES

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DIRECTOR BICENTENNIAL AGENCY.

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ACTION NSC-07

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R 181817Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0036

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REST. PERSONALLY, AS WELL AS IN MY OFFICIAL CAPACITY, I AM HOPING THAT WE CAN ENGAGE BROAD SECTIONS OF OUR POPULATIONS IN THIS EVENT, AND PARTICULARLY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE OUR COMMON MEMORY OF A SHARED ALLIANCE.

THUS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL WELCOME ESPECIALLY ALL FRENCH ACTIVITIES, IN FRANCE AS WELL AS IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HELP MARK THIS MILESTONE. AS YOU MAY HAVE READ, WE HAVE RECENTLY CREATED A BICENTENNIAL AGENCY, HEADED BY THE DISTINGUISHED FORMER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, JOHN WARNER, TO PLAN, COORDINATE, AND ADMINISTER THE OBSERVANCE. AS YOUR COMMISSION PROCEEDS, YOU WILL FIND MY GOVERNMENT READY TO CONSULT WITH IT AND TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE IN PROJECTS IT MAY WISH TO CONDUCT OR ENCOURAGE. WE ARE EAGER TO COOPERATE IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

END TEXT.

8. AMBASSADOR IRWIN APPROVED THIS MESSAGE AND TEXT JUST BEFORE DEPARTING FRANCE JUNE 15.
STONE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DIRECTOR BICENTENNIAL AGENCY.

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